POL 14 VIETS

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ACTION EA 10

INFO SP 02,SS 35,GPM 03,SC 01,NSC 10,RSC 01,L 03,H 02,ACDA 17,IO 21
AID 30,INR 07,SAH 02,P 04,SAL 01,RSR 01,NSCE 00,CIAE 00,SSO 00,
DODE 00,USIE 00,NSAE 00,CCO 00,/159 W

P R 141201Z AUG 67
FM AMEMBASSY SAIGON
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 4591
INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK 3789
AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE 2162
AMCONSUL DANANG 723
CINCPAC

DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/CDC/MR
REVIEWED BY Joan Zenberg DATE 10/6/81
RDS ☐ or XDS ☐ EXT. DATE
TS AUTH. REASON(S)
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CINCPAC FOR POLAD

1. SECOND ROUND OF TELEVISION APPEARANCES FOR PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATES BEGAN AUGUST 13 WITH SLATES 1 THROUGH 6 EACH MAKING FIVE MINUTE PRESENTATION OF THEIR VIEWS. GENERAL

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TONE OF REMARKS BY CANDIDATES WAS MODERATE AND ONLY TRUONG DINH DZU CHOSE TO USE OCCASION TO CRITICIZE GVN FOR HANDLING OF DONG HA AFFAIR. REMAINING FIVE SLATES SCHEDULED TO MAKE SECOND TV APPEARANCE EVENING AUGUST 14.
2. PHAN KHAC SUU MADE ESSENTIALLY SAME REMARKS AS HE HAD ON RADIO NIGHT BEFORE PROMISING, IF ELECTED, IMMEDIATE IMPLEMENTATION OF ALL ASPECTS OF CONSTITUTION. DR. DAN MADE SPEECH ON THE STATE OF THE NATION. HE CHARACTERIZED POLITICAL SCENE AS DISORGANIZED, CALLED FOR REFORM OF THE ARMY, FAIR CONSCRIPTION PROCEDURES AND URGED DEVELOPMENT OF ECONOMY

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TOWARDS SELF-SUFFICIENCY. HE ALSO CALLED FOR STRONGER VOICE OF VIET NAM ON INTERNATIONAL SCENE. AT PRESENT, DAN SAID, FOREIGNERS SPEAK FOR VIETNAMESE. DAN CONCLUDED THAT PEOPLE HAVE LOST CONFIDENCE IN THEMSELVES AND THEIR LEADERS AND FORTHCOMING ELECTION IS AN OPPORTUNITY FOR THE PEOPLE TO DECIDE THEIR OWN FATE.

3. HA THUC KY AND NGUYEN VAN DINH STRESSED THEME OF NATIONAL UNITY. KY SAID THAT IF ELECTED HE WOULD PROMOTE HARMONY BETWEEN RELIGIONS. AS FOR POLITICAL PARTIES, NONE, KY SAID, INCLUDING HIS OWN, COULD SPEAK FOR ENTIRE PEOPLE.

HIS GOVERNMENT WOULD BE ONE OF NATIONAL UNION DOMINATED BY NO SINGLE GROUP. ALLUDING TO DONG HA AFFAIR, KY SAID THAT DESPITE CERTAIN OBSTACLES, HE FELT IT HIS DUTY TO CONTINUE WITH HIS CAMPAIGN.

4. PRINCIPAL THEME OF TRUONG DINH DZU WAS THAT FORTHCOMING ELECTIONS COULD NOT BE FAIR AND FREE IF THIEU AND KY REMAIN IN POWER. DZU SAID THAT GVN PLACING EVERY POSSIBLE OBSTACLE IN WAY OF CAMPAIGN AND ALLEGED THAT GVN USING THREATS AND OTHER PRESSURE TACTICES TO INDLUENCE OUTCOME OF VOTE IN COUNTRYSIDE.

5. HOANG CO BINH AGAIN PROPOSED REVISION OF PORTIONS OF THE CONSTITUTION. HE RECOMMENDED ABOLITION OF ARTICLE 29 WHICH PERMITS RESTRICTION OF CIVIL LIBERTIES UNDER CERTAIN CONDITIONS. HE PROPOSED THAT FUTURE PRIME MINISTER BE RESPONSIBLE EITHER TO PRESIDENT OR TO LEGISLATURE, BUT NOT TO BOTH. HE CALLED FOR XEQUITABLE CONSCRIPION POLICY AND PROMISED, IF ELECTED, TO MAKE FREQUENT VISITS TO COUNTRYSIDE TO UNDERSTAND ASPIRATIONS OF THE PEOPLE.

6. MAI THO TRUYEN, REPRESENTING FUNNING-MATE TRAN VAN HUONG, USED FIVE MINUTES ALLOTED TO HIS SLATE TO TELL A STORY. (HUONG DID

NOT MAKE AN APPEARANCE.) TRUYEN RELATED A STORY OF TWO YOUNG PEASANT BROTHERS ZHO AT AN EARLY AGE LEFT SCHOOL TO WORK FOR DIFFERENT LANDOWNERS. THEIR PATHS DID NOT CROSS FOR SOME TIME

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AND WHEN THEY DID MEET AGAIN THEY BEGAN AN ARGUMENT OVER WHICH LANDOWNER HAD BETTER RICE FIELDS AND STRONGER WATER BUFFALOES. TO SETTLE THE ARGUMENT THE TWO BOYS ARRANGED A FIGHT BETWEEN A WATER BUFFALO BELONGING TO EACH OF THE LANDOWNERS, RESULTING IN CONSIDERABLE BLOODSHED AND THE TRAMPLING OF THEIR FATHERS GRAVE. THE MORAL OF THE STORY, SAID TRUYEN, WAS THAT THE VIETNAMESE PEOPLE SHOULD LOVE EACH OTHER AND "THE HATRED OF OTHERS SHOULD NOT BE TAKEN AS OUR OWN." TRUYEN CONCLUDED THAT HE AND TRAN VAN HUONG HAD DECIDED TO BECOME CANDIDATES BECAUSE THEIR FATHERLAND IS BEING TRAMPLED UNDERFOOT.

7. PHAM HUY CO AND LY QUOC SINH REITERATED THEIR STAND ON THE PEACE ISSUE. SINH MAINTAINED THAT VIETNAMESE PEOPLE WILL NOT ACCEPT "NEUTRALIST SOLUTION." CO DENOUNCED THOSE LISTS WHICH ADVOCATE NEGOTIATIONS WITH THE VIET CONG. (HE DID NOT IDENTIFY THEM.) AND HE REAFFIRMED BELIEF THAT SOLUTION TO VIET NAM WAR IS COMPLETE VICTORY OVER COMMUNISTS. BUNKER

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